



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Caribou-Targhee National Forest HQ

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File Code: 2160

Date: June 12, 2017

US EPA

JUN 15 2017

IDAHO OPERATIONS OFFICE

UPS: 1ZE273430395803716

Alan Prouty
Vice President,
Environmental & Regulatory Affairs
J.R. Simplot Company
1099 W. Front Street
Boise, ID 83702

RE: Agencies' Comments on Smoky Canyon Mine RI/FS Phase II Water Treatment System Pilot Study Activated Sludge Seeding RTC

Dear Alan;

Enclosed you will find the Agencies' Comments on Simplot's Smoky Canyon Mine RI/FS Phase II Water Treatment System Pilot Study Activated Sludge Seeding Response to Comments. Please respond to these comments and submit a revised Activated Sludge Seeding Request by July 17, 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 208-236-7572.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR BURBANK
Remedial Project Manager

Enclosure

cc: Jeffery Hamilton; Simplot, Pocatello
Ron Quinn; Simplot, Smoky Canyon Mine
Burl Ackerman; Simplot, Boise
Fred Charles; Formation Environmental, Boulder
Sandi Fisher; USFWS, Pocatello
Colleen O'Hara; BLM, Pocatello
Brady Johnson; IDEQ, State Office
Wayne Crowther; IDEQ, Pocatello
Matt Wilkening; EPA, Boise
Kelly Wright; Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Fort Hall
Susan Hanson; Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Fort Hall
Rick McCormick; CH2M Hill, Boise



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Agencies' Comments – Smoky Canyon Mine RI/FS Phase 2 Pilot Study Work Plan for the Ultra-Filtration/Reverse Osmosis and Biological Selenium Removal Fluidized Bed Bioreactor Treatment Technology

Pilot Test Plan: Activated Sludge Seeding Request RTC

General Comments:

- GC-1** MicroClear M100 is a chemical nutrient solution rather than a microbial culture. MicroClear 201 is presumably a culture of heterogeneous bacteria intended to biodegrade residual organics in the TSP water. Please provide information on the type or range of organics degraded and what applications are intended.
- GC-2** MicroSolv 600-L is apparently going to be used to provide a source of nitrifying organisms, to oxidize residual ammonia-nitrogen in the TSP water. The COA specifies only a *Nitrosomonas* activity rate; it is assumed that it contains *Nitrobacter* as well as *Nitrosomonas* to complete the 2-step nitrification sequence. No information is provided on the quantities or ratios of the products to be used in seeding the activated sludge system. Please provide product information on the product contents and their intended uses.